

WI-461

c. 1896

Richard M. Johnson House  
Salisbury  
Private

Standing on the western edge of the Newtown neighborhood, the Richard M. Johnson house, also known as the Johnson-Cooper house, is a distinctive T-shaped Victorian frame dwelling that incorporates a number of architectural features distinctive to the historic district. The gable-front house has an unusual turned post porch embellished with a creative eave decoration that combines turned spindles and woven lattice corner brackets. The northeast corner entrance to the porch is marked by a pediment front enriched with a carved face executed in a flowing linear design. This same carved wood ornament is repeated with the uppermost gable of the main block above a third floor balcony. The tee shape of the main block is created by matching two-story bay pavilions that rise to gable roofs sheathed with fishscale shingles. A wide extended eave with exposed rafter ends and bracketed corners trims the edge of the patterned slate roof.

Historically identified as the Richard M. Johnson house, the intricately detailed Victorian dwelling was erected around 1896, shortly after Richard M. and William T. Johnson acquired title to this lot bordering Isabella Street and the right-of-way for the Baltimore, Chesapeake, and Atlantic Railroad. The two men paid \$225 for the property. Three years later, in January 1899, Richard purchased William's half interest. Richard Johnson and his wife Williamina, as well as their daughter Elizabeth are listed in the 1907 Salisbury city directory at what was then known as 200 West Isabella Street. In 1909, Elizabeth D. Cooper acquired title to the property. She and her husband William, the secretary for the Wicomico Building & Loan Association, resided here, and she maintained ownership until 1951.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-461

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Richard M. Johnson House

other Johnson-Cooper House

### 2. Location

street and number 208-210 West Isabella Street

not for publication

city, town Salisbury

vicinity

county Wicomico

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Osborne D. Christensen, et al.

street and number 112 Baptist Street

telephone 410-742-6126

city, town Salisbury

state MD

zip code 21801

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court

tax map and parcel Map 106, Parcel 977

city, town Salisbury, Maryland

liber 887

folio 106

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☒ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☒ **Contributing Resource in Local Historic District**  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other:

### 6. Classification

| Category  | Ownership                                   | Current Function                             |                    | Resource Count   |
|---|---|--|--------------------|--|
| district  | public                                      | agriculture                                  | landscape          | Contributing   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | commerce/trade                               | recreation/culture | <u>1</u>   |
| structure                                       | both  | defense                                      | religion           | Noncontributing  |
| site  |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic | social             | buildings  |
| object  |   | education                                    | transportation     | sites  |
|   |   | funerary                                     | work in progress   | structures   |
|   |   | government                                   | unknown            | _ objects  |
|   |   | health care                                  | vacant/not in use  | Total  |
|   |   | industry                                     | other:             |  |
|   |   |  |                    | <b>Number of Contributing Resources<br/>previously listed in the Inventory</b> |

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-461

Name Richard M. Johnson House

### Continuation Sheet

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. WI-461

### Condition

|                                     |           |              |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
|                                     | excellent | deteriorated |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | good      | ruins        |
|                                     | fair      | altered      |

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Richard M. Johnson house, historically known as the Johnson-Cooper house, stands at 208-210 West Isabella Street on the west side of the Newtown Historic District in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story frame house faces north with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis. The house is perched atop a slight knoll overlooking West Isabella and Mill streets.

Built around 1896, the two-and-a-half story, T-shaped, gable front frame dwelling is supported on a raised brick foundation with a partially excavated cellar. The exterior of the house is clad in a combination of plain weatherboards and fishscale shingles. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with patterned slate. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story service wing.

The north (main) facade is a three-bay elevation with a side entrance and flanking colored glass windows. The entrance is fitted with a heavily molded four-panel door. Sheltering the first floor and wrapping around each side is a turned post porch enhanced with decorative eave of spindles and lattice-like brackets. The entrance to the porch on the northeast corner has a pediment front enriched with a carved linear design. The second floor of the main block is lighted by three evenly windows with large single-pane windows framed by small colored glass panes. The gable front, sheathed with fishscale shingles, is defined by a projecting balcony porch. Turned columns enclose the porch opening, and decorative brackets underpin the balcony floor. The edge of the roof is trimmed with extended eaves and exposed and decorated rafter ends. The corners of the roof have decorative brackets. Perched atop the slate roof are large gable roof dormers fitted with paired six-over-one sash windows. The dormer roofs have extended eaves, open soffits, and decorated rafter feet.

The east and west sides of the house are defined by two-story, five-sided bay pavilions sheathed with a combination of plain weatherboards and fishscale shingles. Each floor is lighted by large Victorian sash with colored glass perimeter panes. The gable of each pavilion is sheathed with fishscale shingles, and brackets are attached to the outside corners. Each gable is pierced by a Victorian sash window.

Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story service wing, executed in a plainer fashion than the front of the house. Turned post porches are attached to the rear corners.

The house is divided into two apartments. The interior was not seen.

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## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Richard M. Johnson House  
Continuation Sheet

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### 8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-461

| Period      | Areas of Significance | Check and justify below      |                        |                     |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1600-1699   | agriculture           | economics                    | health/medicine        | performing arts     |
| 1700-1799   | archeology            | education                    | industry               | philosophy          |
| x 1800-1899 | x architecture        | engineering                  | invention              | politics/government |
| 1900-1999   | art                   | entertainment/<br>recreation | landscape architecture | religion            |
| 2000-       | commerce              | ethnic heritage              | law                    | science             |
|             | communications        | exploration/<br>settlement   | literature             | social history      |
|             | community planning    |                              | maritime history       | transportation      |
|             | conservation          |                              | military               | other:              |

Significance dates

Architect

Specific dates

Builder

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☒ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Standing on the western edge of the Newtown neighborhood, the Richard M. Johnson house, also known as the Johnson-Cooper house, is a distinctive T-shaped Victorian frame dwelling that incorporates a number of architectural features unusual to the historic district. The gable-front house has an unusual turned post porch embellished with a creative eave decoration that combines turned spindles and lattice-like corner brackets. The corner entrance to the porch is marked by a pediment front enriched with a carved face executed in a flowing linear design. This same carved wooden ornament is fixed within the uppermost gable of the main block above a third floor balcony. The T-shape of the main block is created by matching two-story bay pavilions that rise to a gable roof sheathed with fishscale shingles. A wide, extended eave with exposed rafter ends and bracketed corners trims the edge of the patterned slate roof. Large gable roofed dormers are distinguished by extended eaves and exposed rafter ends as well.

Historically identified as the Richard M. Johnson house, or the Johnson-Cooper house, the intricately detailed Victorian dwelling was erected around 1896, shortly after Richard M. and William T. Johnson acquired title to this lot

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-461

Name Richard M. Johnson House  
**Continuation Sheet**

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bordering Isabella Street and the right-of-way for the Baltimore, Chesapeake, and Atlantic railroad.<sup>1</sup> The two men paid \$225 for the property. Three years later, in January 1899, Richard purchased William's half interest.<sup>2</sup> Richard M. Johnson and his wife, Williamina, as well as their daughter Elizabeth are listed in the 1907 Salisbury city directory at what was then known as 200 West Isabella Street. In 1909, Elizabeth D. Cooper acquired title to property.<sup>3</sup> She and her husband William, the secretary for the Wicomico Building & Loan Association, resided here, and she the property remained in her name until 1951.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 18/237, 23 July 1896

<sup>2</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 24/116, 23 January 1899.

<sup>3</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, EAT 62/9, 5 February 1909.

<sup>4</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 326/156, 4 June 1951.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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WI-461

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of project area

Acreage surveyed

Quadrangle name

Salisbury, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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**Verbal boundary description and justification**

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

street & number P. O. Box 5

city or town Westover, Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only  
and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032  
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-461

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Continuation Sheet

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### HISTORIC CONTEXT:

#### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

Resource Type: Standing Structure

Category: House

Historic Environment: Residential district

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic

Known Design Source:

WI-461  
Richard M. Johnson House  
(Johnson-Cooper House)  
208-210 West Isabella Street  
Chain of title

Map 106, Parcel 977

887/106

Curtis W. Long  
Sarah U. Long

to

11/9/1977

Osborne D. Christensen  
Mary Christensen  
Osborne D. Christensen, Jr.  
trading as Greenbank Enterprises

JWTS 692/478

Ralph C. Lednum  
Mary W. Lednum

to

5/29/1969

Curtis W. Long  
Sarah U. Long

JWTS 326/156

John W. Downing, Attorney for Elizabeth D. Cooper

to

6/4/1951

Ralph C. Lednum

EAT 62/9

Richard M. Johnson  
Williamina R. Johnson

to

2/5/1909

Elizabeth D. Cooper  
\$4,500. 34/100 of an acre and Lot. No. 1, Division 2 of  
Gordon H. Toadvine's land as per survey and plot made by  
Peter S. Shockley, No. 871 in Equity



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Page 2

Richard M. Johnson House  
(Johnson-Cooper House)  
208-210 West Isabella Street  
Chain of title continued

JTT 18/237

C. Ernest Williams, trustee

to

7/23/1896

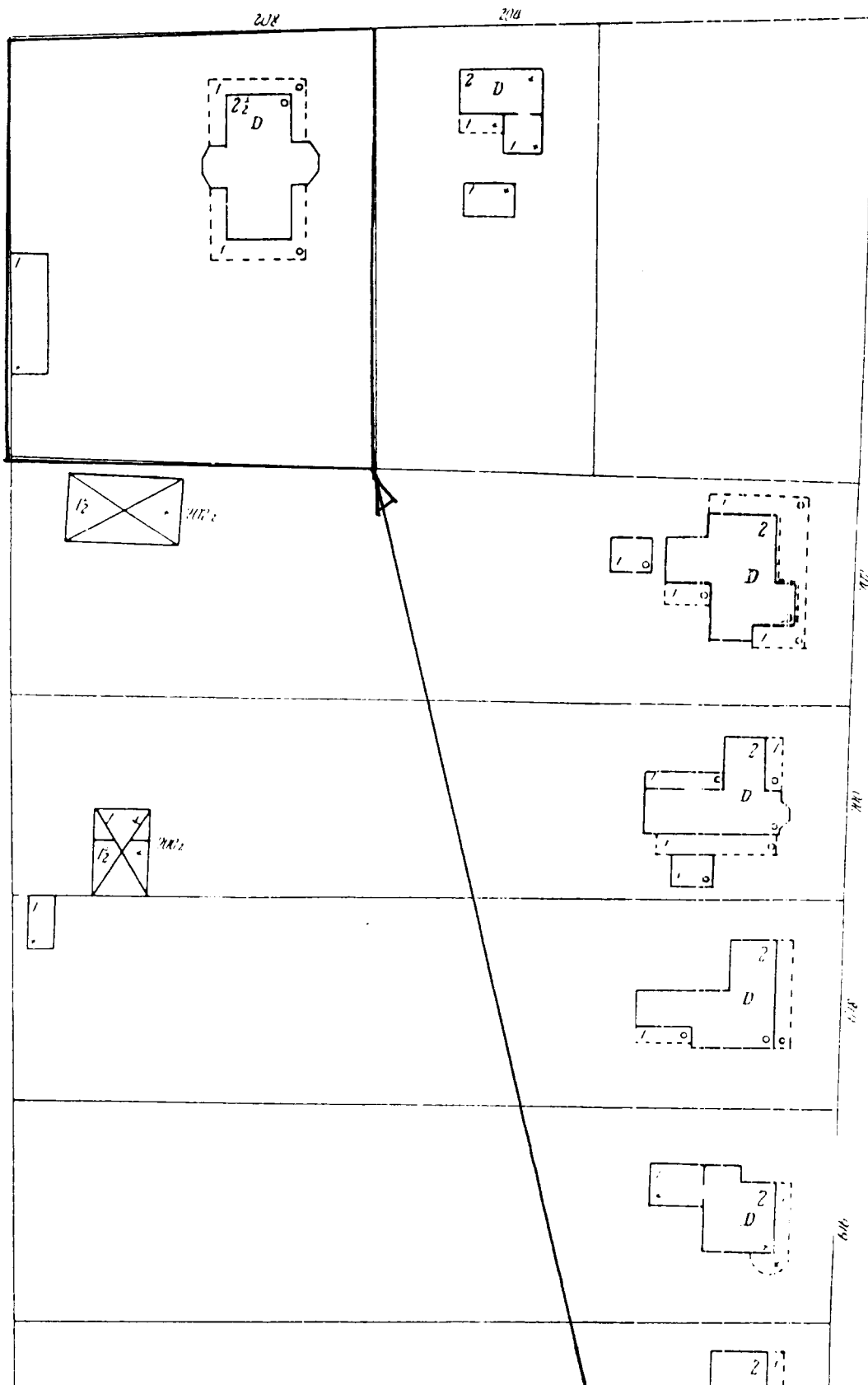
Richard M. Johnson  
William T. Johnson

(the one half interest of William T. Johnson having been  
deeded to the said Richard M. Johnson, 23 January 1899,  
JTT 24/116

...all that lot or parcel of land lying on the South side of  
Isabella Street in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland,  
and on the easterly side of the branch of the Baltimore,  
Chesapeake, and Atlantic Railroad running to the Jackson  
Bros. Company Mills near the Pivot Bridge which said lot  
is Lot No. 1 of Division 2 of the real estate of said Gordon  
H. Toadvine as per plat made by Peter S. Shockley and filed  
in Number 871 Equity....being the land hereafter conveyed  
and sold the same to Benjamin T. Wooley he being the  
highest and best bidder therefore at and for \$255 but at the  
request of said Wooley, Richard M. Johnson and William T.  
Johnson were substituted and returned as purchasers of said  
lot at said price and the said Johnson complied with the terms  
of the sale.

1904

ISABELLA



AVE.



WI-461  
Richard M. Johnson House  
208 West Isabella Street

50

Sanborn Insurance Map, 1904

60 / NW  
HEBRON

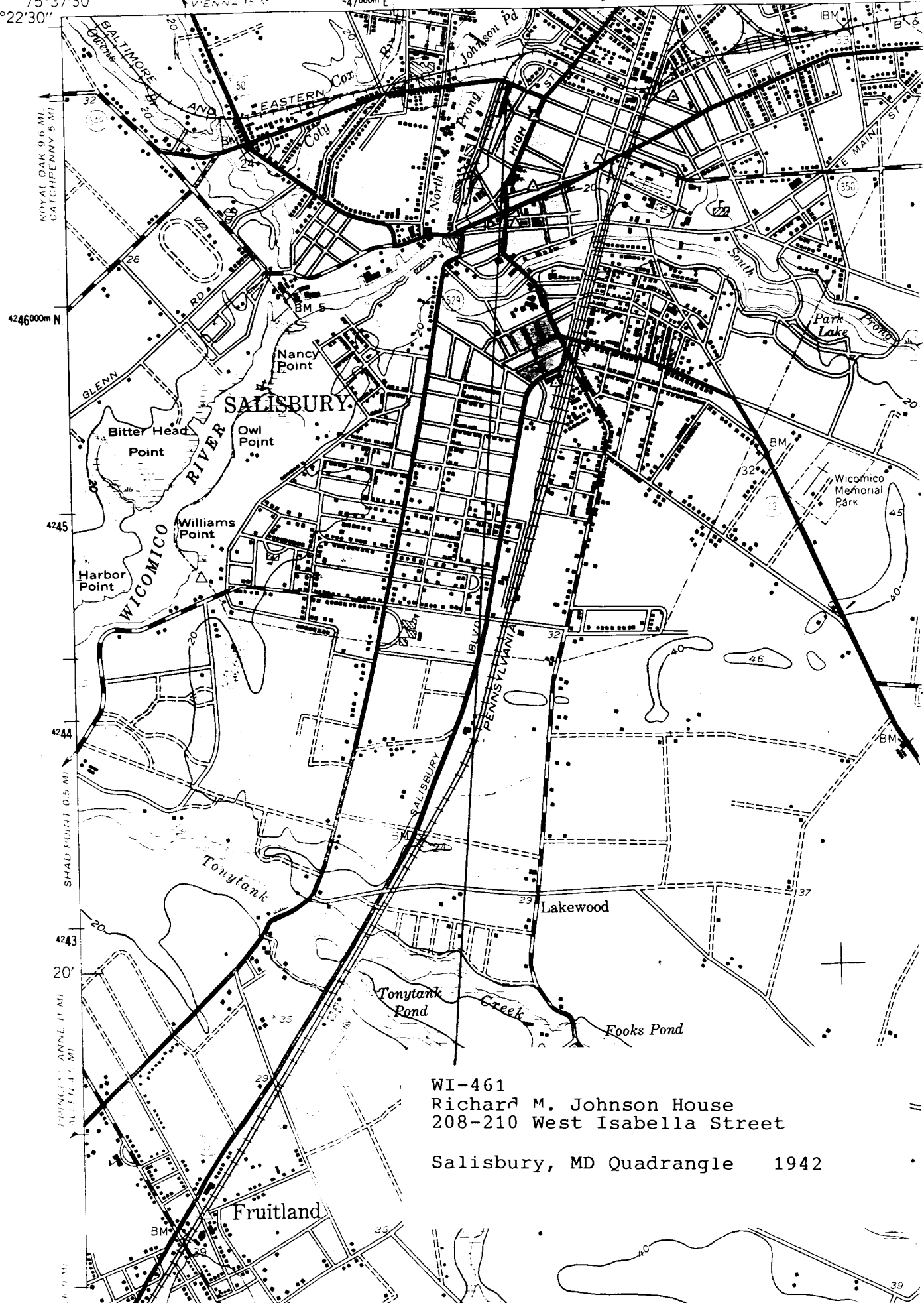
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

75°37'30"  
38°22'30"

CAMBRIDGE 31 MI.  
VIENNA 15 MI.  
447000m E

LAUREL 13 M  
DELMAR 6 M

35'



WI-461  
Richard M. Johnson House  
208-210 West Isabella Street  
Salisbury, MD Quadrangle 1942



W 461

Revised M. L. L. 12-1-12

SARASOTA, FLORIDA

November 12, 1912

2/2000, 1/2000, 1/2000, 1/2000

Net. 1/2000 1/2000 1/2000

2000 3



VI - 4

Revised to include  
Shallow Penetration  
Horizontal Rods

2/2000, Pine Trench  
1/10 1/200 5000